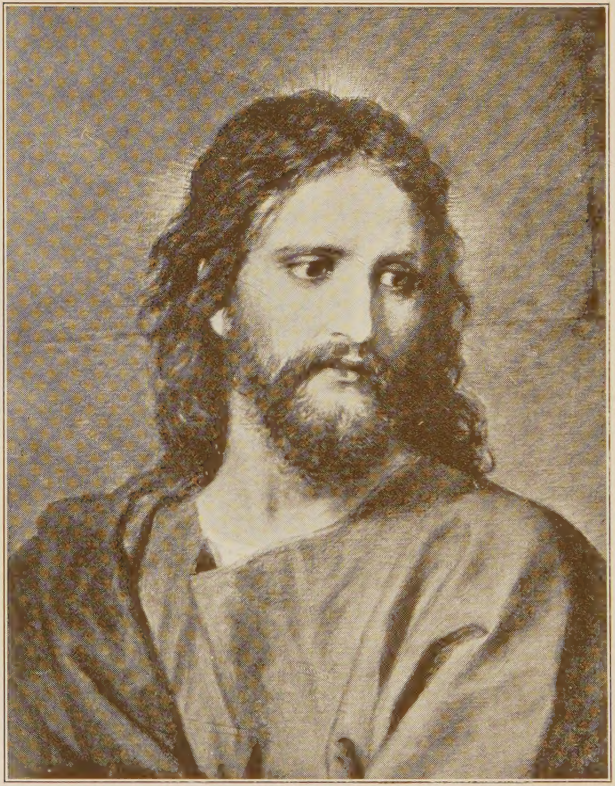

Hofmann

A Life of Christ
for Children

BY

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PREFACE

This little volume, the result of several years of earnest effort in class-room work, is offered to my coworkers in the hope that it may be found suggestive and helpful in pointing the way to the study of the life and teachings of Jesus. The lessons are based upon the story of the Master as told in the New Testament, and give in simple, direct form the chief points in his marvelous teachings. The Scripture references are carefully given with the view to direct the attention of teachers and pupils to the fuller reading of the narrative as found in the Bible. This feature of the lessons is earnestly recommended; if persevered in it will be found to be very helpful in cultivating a taste for Bible reading, a taste sadly wanting in many of our deaf children.

It is suggested that each lesson be carefully amplified by the teacher as time and

condition may require, and that frequent review be given in such manner as may appear wisest and best.

The author feels that with the thorough mastery of the sixty-nine lessons here presented deaf children will be found fully prepared to take up the regular study of the New Testament.

FLORENCE BAILLIE FITZPATRICK.

MT. AIRY, PHILADELPHIA.

LESSON FIRST

JESUS FORETOLD

When Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden, God promised them that a Saviour would come who would bruise the head of the serpent. Thousands of years passed by and during all that time good people were waiting for this Saviour to appear.

The history of all those years is found in the Old Testament. You can read there how the Israelites left Egypt because they were oppressed, and how Moses led them through the wilderness to the land of Canaan. There are many stories of the Children of Israel and their troubles while they were going to Canaan, but in all these stories we can see how God was leading them and taking care of them.

Through all this time God was promising to send a Saviour, and the Israelites were con-

stantly waiting for him to come. God sent holy men called prophets to tell them about the coming of the Saviour.

The Old Testament tells us the history of the Israelites until about four hundred years before the Saviour was born. The story of these four hundred years can be read in several other books. These books tell us that during these years the Jews were at war almost constantly. They were conquered by the king of Persia and were governed by Persia for almost a hundred years. Then they came under the rule of Alexander the Great and were under him for nine years. After his death they were the servants of the kings of Egypt for almost a century.

LESSON SECOND

THE EGYPTIAN RULERS

Some of the foreign kings treated the Jews kindly, but after many years a cruel king ruled over them. He came to Jerusalem and saw how beautiful the temple was. He did not believe in God and he determined to see every part of the temple. He not only went into the courts where the Jews were allowed to go, but also into the Holy of holies where only the high priests were allowed to go. The priests and the people tried to keep him from doing this wicked thing, but he went on until he came to the Holy place. But while he was there God sent a great fear and weakness upon him and he had to be carried out.

After the king became conscious again, he was so angry that he treated the Jews very cruelly. He put many to death and made slaves of others. Then the Jews made war

upon him and he no longer ruled over them. Yet they were not free after this, but became the servants of the king of Syria.

The reason they were allowed to have so many troubles was because they had been unfaithful to God. Sin always brings people into trouble. If we do not do as God commands us we lose his favor and protection, and, when enemies come against us, we cannot get God's help. If the Jews had always been faithful to God they would never have suffered so from their enemies.

LESSON THIRD

THE SYRIAN RULERS

The first Syrian king was kind to the Jews as long as he lived, but when he died his son, a cruel man, became king. This king, Antiochus, came with an army and captured Jerusalem and put many Jews, both young and old, to death. In three days the Syrians killed forty thousand Jews and sold forty thousand more as slaves. The king went into the temple and took away the golden altar, the golden candlestick, the golden table and all the rich treasures which were kept there.

Two years afterwards he sent one of his generals with a great army against Jerusalem. When they knew that the Jews would not fight on their holy day, the Syrian army fell upon the Jews on a Sabbath, killed the men, took the women and children prisoners, robbed the houses and threw down the city walls.

So many people were killed in this battle that the streets of Jerusalem ran with blood.

After this the king of Syria made a law which forbade the Jews to offer up sacrifices to God or to keep the Sabbath holy. The beautiful temple became a heathen house of worship and idols were set up in it. The Jews who refused to worship the idols were punished. Many dreadful stories of the cruelty of the Syrians are told. The Jews who refused to give up their faith were punished in horrible ways. But in spite of all their suffering many of them remained true to God.

LESSON FOURTH

THE MACCABEES

There was one family among the Jews who were called the Maccabees. The father, who was a priest, had five sons. They all loved to worship God and hated idols.

One day the father killed a Syrian soldier who was setting up an altar to an idol in the city where the Maccabees lived. To escape punishment, he and his sons fled to the mountains, where many of the Jews followed him until he had gathered around him a small army. For a little while he fought against the Syrians, but he was an old man and not strong enough to bear the hardships of war. He felt, too, that he would not live much longer, so before his death, he called his five sons to him and gave them his blessing. He told them to be brave and not to fear the Syrians; but to go out and battle against them, for if

they believed in God and trusted him, they would surely win.

After their father's death the sons did as he had commanded. They led the Jews against the Syrians, and although the Syrians were stronger than the Jews, with God's help they succeeded in driving the Syrians out of Jerusalem. The idols in the temple were destroyed and the Jews once more worshiped there. They had their own kings, and the family of the Maccabees ruled over them for nearly a hundred years.

But when all their troubles seemed to be past, the Jews grew proud and selfish and jealous of each other. Two brothers each claimed the throne and there was a civil war. While the Jews were fighting among themselves, the Romans, who were then the most powerful nation on earth, came and took Jerusalem. They tore down the walls of the city, and the Jews were made servants to the Romans.

LESSON FIFTH

HEROD

The Romans sent a general named Herod to be king of the Jews. He was not a Jew, but he pretended to believe the Jewish religion. He was really a fierce and cruel man. He was proud of being king and was always afraid that some one would share his power. He was so jealous that he had his wife and two sons put to death.

The Jews hated Herod for his cruelty and wickedness and Herod became afraid that they would rise in rebellion against him. So after he had been king for eighteen years he thought he would please them by rebuilding the temple.

LESSON SIXTH

THE NEW TEMPLE

The temple which then stood on Mount Moriah was about five hundred years old and was in great need of repair. Herod had the old building taken down, a portion at a time, and replaced the ancient walls with great blocks of white marble. In some places the marble was covered with plates of silver and gold. The temple was magnificent and shone so brightly in the sunlight that it dazzled the eyes.

The inside of the building was divided into two rooms by a curtain or veil, just as the old temple had been. One room was the Holy place, where the golden altar, the golden table and the golden candlestick stood.

The other room was the Holy of holies, where the ark had stood. In one of the wars, the Jews had lost the ark, so it was no longer

in the Holy place, but there was a stone on the spot where the ark should have been.

Outside the temple there were several courts. The one that was near the Holy place was the priests' court. Outside the priests' court there was another called the court of Israel. Here the men of Israel came to worship. Outside the court of Israel was another court called the court of the women, where the women of Israel worshiped. And outside all the other courts was a very large court called the court of the Gentiles. Into this court all the people of other nations were allowed to come.

Outside the courts, walls were built and on the inside of the walls there were wide porches. These porches made a beautiful covered walk in stormy weather, and in warm weather the people walked or sat upon the flat roofs.

The Jews did not go into the temple to worship—only the priests were allowed to go there. The people worshiped in the courts.

The new temple was very beautiful. Eighteen thousand men worked on it nine years before it was finished.

LESSON SEVENTH

THE BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST (LUKE, CH. I)

While Herod was king of Judæa, there was an old priest named Zacharias. He had a wife whose name was Elisabeth. Zacharias and Elisabeth were old and had been married a great many years, but no children had been born to them.

One day Zacharias went into the temple to burn incense upon the golden altar. While he was standing at the altar an angel came and stood beside him. When Zacharias saw the angel he was filled with fear; but the angel spoke, and said, "Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John." Then the angel told Zacharias that the child John should become a great preacher, and should prepare the way for the coming of Christ.

Then Zacharias told the angel that he could not believe that God would send him a child in his old age. The angel told Zacharias that because he had thus doubted his word, God would make him dumb until his child should be born. Then the angel departed, and Zacharias went out of the temple. The courts of the temple were filled with people praying, and when they saw that Zacharias was dumb, they knew that he had seen a vision.

After several months a child was born to Elisabeth, but during all these months Zacharias was dumb.

When it was time to name the baby, Elisabeth's friends told her that she ought to call the child Zacharias, for his father; but Elisabeth said that he should be named John. Then Zacharias told them by signs to bring him a writing table and when they had brought it, he wrote: "His name is John." After Zacharias had written these words, God gave him power to speak again. The people who saw this miracle were astonished and wondered what sort of child John would grow to be.

LESSON EIGHTH

THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

Three months before John was born the same angel who had spoken to Zacharias came to a young woman named Mary, in the city of Nazareth. Mary was a cousin of Elisabeth and was a descendant of King David.

When Mary saw the angel she was troubled, but the angel said, "Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favor with God." Then the angel told Mary that God would send her a son and that his name should be Jesus. He said that Jesus would be called the Son of God and that God would make him rule forever over the hearts of the people who loved him.

Then Mary said to the angel: "I am the handmaid of the Lord. Be it done unto me as thou hast said." She meant that because she was God's servant she was willing to do anything that God wished.

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THE VISIT OF THE SHEPHERDS

Mary's husband was named Joseph. They lived in Nazareth. Joseph was a poor man, a carpenter, but he too, was descended from King David. At this time the Jews were servants of the Romans and had to obey the laws of the emperor of Rome.

The Roman emperor had made a new law that all the Jews should have their names written down in the city in which their forefathers had lived. So Mary and Joseph went up from Nazareth to the little town of Bethlehem, because their forefather, King David, had lived there.

When they came to Bethlehem there was no room for them at the inn, because so many people had come to have their names written down. Mary and Joseph could find no other place, so they went to the stable to sleep, and that night the child whom God had promised to Mary was born. The Saviour, whom the Jews had been expecting since the time of Adam and Eve, was born in a stable, and Mary, his mother, wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger.

There were shepherds in the fields near

Bethelem watching over their flocks that night. And while they were keeping their watch the angel of the Lord came to them and a bright light shone around them. Then the shepherds became frightened, but the angel said: "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." Then suddenly there appeared with the first angel a great multitude of angels and they sang, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

When the angels had gone, the shepherds went into Bethlehem to look for the child, and they found him with Mary, his mother, and Joseph. Jesus was lying in the manger wrapped in swaddling clothes just as the angel had said.

Bartolommeo Del Fattorino

SIMEON AND THE HOLY CHILD

LESSON NINTH

THE WISE MEN

When Jesus was eight days old, Mary and Joseph named him Jesus, as the angel had told them to do. On the fortieth day after his birth, they took him to Jerusalem and carried him to the temple where they gave him to God, offering a sacrifice of turtledoves.

There was a very good man named Simeon living in Jerusalem. He was very old but the Holy Spirit had told him that he would not die until he had seen the Saviour whom his people had been so long expecting. As soon as Simeon saw Jesus he took him in his arms and spoke beautiful words of thanksgiving, beginning, "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: For mine eyes have seen thy salvation." He was willing to die, because he had seen the promised Saviour.

Mary and Joseph returned to Bethlehem

after presenting the child Jesus to God in the temple. A little while after this some wise men who studied the stars came to Jerusalem from the far East and asked, "Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him." They had made a very long journey to Jerusalem when they learned that the King of the Jews would be born there. But they could not find Jesus in Jerusalem when they came, so they asked the people where he was.

King Herod heard what they said, and he was troubled when he heard them call Jesus King of the Jews. Herod was afraid that the child might some day really become king of the Jews and drive him from the throne. So Herod made up his mind to try to kill him. He gathered together the priests and others who knew what the Bible said about the birth of the Messiah and asked them where the Messiah should be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem." Then he sent the wise men to Bethlehem and told them, when they had found the child, to bring him word so that he

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THE WISE MEN AND THE STAR

could go and worship him, also. Herod did not really mean to worship him, but to kill him.

The wise men left Jerusalem and went toward Bethlehem, and while they were going, the star which they had seen in their own country shone above them and showed them the way and led them to the house where the young child was. The wise men then went into the house, and there found the child with Mary his mother. Then they bowed down and worshiped Jesus and gave him presents of gold, frankincense and myrrh. All these presents were rich and rare in the country where the wise men lived, and they had brought them because they would honor the newborn King.

That night God spoke to them in a dream and told them not to go back to Herod, but to return to their own country by another way.

When Herod found that the wise men had not done as he wished them to do, he became very angry and sent his soldiers to Bethlehem, commanding them to kill all the male children who were less than two years old. Herod thought that by doing this he would

surely kill Jesus; but God had spoken to Mary and Joseph and had told them to take Jesus and flee to Egypt, so they were not at Bethlehem when the children were killed. They stayed in Egypt until Herod was dead.

After Herod's death, an angel appeared and told Joseph and Mary that it was safe now for them to go back to their own country. So they went back and lived at Nazareth where all of Jesus' boyhood was spent. Matt., chs. I and II.

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GOING UP TO JERUSALEM

LESSON TENTH

CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE

The Jews every year had a feast called the feast of the passover, and the people of Nazareth went up to Jerusalem to worship.

When Jesus was twelve years old, Mary and Joseph were returning to Nazareth, after the feast was over, with many of their neighbors. Suddenly Mary missed Jesus, but thinking that he was following with some of their friends, she did not feel alarmed at first.

They went on their journey until the end of the day; then they became anxious and sought among their friends for him. When they could not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him.

After three days they found him in the temple among some learned men called doctors. Jesus was answering their questions

and also asking them questions; but in both his questions and his answers he showed so much wisdom that the learned doctors were astonished.

When Mary and Joseph saw him they were amazed. Mary said to him, "Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing." She meant by these words to ask Jesus why he had treated them so, and to tell him that she and Joseph had been worried and anxious about him, thinking he was lost.

Then Jesus answered, "How it is that ye sought me? know ye not that I must be about my Father's business?" Mary and Joseph could not understand what Jesus meant, but we know that he knew he was God's Son; that God had sent him to earth to teach people how to live; and although Jesus was then only twelve years old, he felt that he must be doing God's work.

Then Jesus returned to Nazareth with Joseph and Mary, and lived with them until he was a man. He obeyed his earthly parents

and helped them in their work. The Bible tells us that he grew in wisdom, and that his neighbors loved him. (Luke II, 40 to 51.)

Jesus thus set a good and beautiful example for all other boys and girls. He was obedient to his parents. He did all he could to help them. He was not ashamed to do lowly things. The place for children to begin to do their heavenly Father's business is in their own homes.

LESSON ELEVENTH

THE BAPTISM OF JESUS

When John the Baptist became a man he left the wilderness and came back to the country along the river Jordan to preach to the Jews. He preached to them about repenting of their sins and baptized all who repented in the Jordan. He taught the people to be unselfish, and to share what they had with the poor; he also taught them to be honest and kind.

He spoke so wisely that many of the Jews thought he was the Saviour, but John told them that he was not the Saviour but had come to prepare the way for the Messiah. He told them that he only baptized them with water, but that soon the Saviour would come and would baptize them with the Holy Spirit. (Matt. III, 1 to 12.)

While John was preaching, Jesus came

to him and asked John to baptize him. But John refused at first, saying that he was not worthy or good enough to baptize the Son of God. Then Jesus insisted on John's baptizing him, telling him that he should do so because it would be an example for all people. And while they were standing in the river Jordan the heavens above were opened and Jesus saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove. A great light shone upon Jesus, and a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased." (Matt. III, 13 to 17.)

LESSON TWELFTH

THE TEMPTATION IN THE WILDERNESS

After Jesus was baptized, he went into the wilderness and stayed there forty days. He spent the time in prayer and fasting, preparing himself to preach.

After Jesus had fasted he was hungry. Then Satan came to him and tempted him, just as he had tempted Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. Satan said to Jesus, "If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread." Jesus knew that Satan was tempting him, and he determined to do nothing that he asked. So Jesus told him that it was written in the Bible that it was better for us to obey God than to get food when we are hungry.

Then the devil took Jesus to Jerusalem and took him to a very high part of the temple, and tempted him, saying, "If thou be the Son

of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone." Jesus answered, "Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God."

Then the devil took Jesus to the top of a very high mountain and Jesus saw spread out before him all the kingdoms of the world. They saw beautiful cities, great armies and all the riches of the world. Then Satan said to Jesus, "All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me." Jesus was poor and hungry, but he turned in anger to Satan and said, "Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve."

Then Satan knew that he could never tempt Jesus to obey him, so he left him. And after Satan had gone, angels came to Jesus on the mountain and comforted and fed him. (Matt. IV, 1 to 11.)

LESSON THIRTEENTH

JESUS' DISCIPLES

After Jesus had been tempted by Satan, he returned to Galilee and began to preach. He taught repentance of sin and many people who heard him believed that he was the Son of God.

There were two men who had become interested in the preaching of John the Baptist, and when they heard Jesus preach they followed him. They believed that Jesus was the Son of God, and they wanted to become his disciples and to learn of him. One of these disciples, Andrew, went to his brother Simon and told him about Jesus. Then Simon became a disciple, too, and Jesus gave him a new name, Peter.

John also was with Andrew that day at the home of Jesus. He does not mention his own name, saying only that one of the two was

Andrew. John never talked about himself. After being with Jesus and finding out that he was the promised Messiah, he went out too and brought his own brother to Jesus. Jesus had now four disciples.

The following day, Jesus going out met Philip, who was a neighbor of Andrew and Peter. Jesus said to Philip, "Follow me," and Philip followed Jesus and became his disciple. Then Philip went and told his friend Nathanael about Jesus. At first Nathanael did not believe that Jesus was the Son of God, but after he had seen Jesus and had talked with him, he believed and became a disciple of Jesus, also. (John I, 35 to 51.)

LESSON FOURTEENTH

JESUS' FIRST MIRACLE

A few days after Jesus began to preach, he was asked to attend a wedding in Cana, a town of Galilee. Mary, the mother of Jesus, was there and also the disciples of Jesus. There was a wedding feast at which wine had been served, but the wine had all been used and there was none left to serve the other guests.

When they wanted more wine, Mary said to Jesus, "They have no wine." Mary knew that Jesus, being God's Son, could give them anything they needed. Then Mary said to the servants, "Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it."

There were six large water pots standing on the floor, and Jesus told the servants to fill them with water. The servants filled them up to the brim. Then Jesus told them to draw

some of the water and carry it to the chief man or ruler of the feast; he found that it was no longer water, but wine.

When the ruler of the feast had tasted the wine, he called the bridegroom and asked him why he had kept the best wine until the last of the feast; for the wine which Jesus had made was better than the wine which had been first served.

When the people found that Jesus had changed water into wine they were amazed, and the disciples believed more fully than before that he was the Son of God. (John II, 1 to 11.)

LESSON FIFTEENTH

JESUS AND THE MONEY-CHANGERS

Shortly after his first miracle, Jesus went up to Jerusalem to attend the feast of the passover. When he went into the temple, he found men selling oxen and sheep and doves for sacrifices. There were also men who had tables of Jewish money called half shekels. It was an old Jewish law that every Jew should pay a half shekel to the priests every year to help pay for the sacrifices and for other things needed in the temple. The men, or money-changers in the temple, sold these half shekels to the Jews in exchange for Roman money, which was used by the Jews in trade.

When Jesus saw all this business of buying and selling and changing of money in the courts of the temple, he made a small whip or scourge of cords and he drove the money-

changers and merchants out of the temple. He poured out the money on the ground and overthrew the tables. Then he said to the men who sold doves, "Take these things hence; make not my Father's house an house of merchandise."

Moses had told the people that the temple was a sacred place, but the Jews had forgotten many of the things Moses had told them. Now Jesus had come to show them how wicked they had become.

While Jesus was in the temple, he preached, and many people who heard him believed in him and repented of their sins. (John II, 13 to 17.)

LESSON SIXTEENTH

DEATH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

When Jesus was born, Herod was the ruler of Judæa, but he was now dead and his son, also named Herod, ruled in his place.

This man also was wicked, like his father. He had married a woman named Herodias. She had been his brother's wife and Herod had married her while his brother was still living.

John the Baptist was not afraid to tell Herod how wicked he was. When Herodias heard what John had said she became very angry and wanted Herod to kill John. Herod had heard John the Baptish preach and he knew that the people loved him; so he was afraid to put him to death; but to please Herodias he put John in prison.

Herodias hated John and she planned to have him put to death. When Herod's birth-

day came the daughter of Herodias, a beautiful young girl, went to Herod and danced before him. She pleased Herod so much that he said he would give her whatever she asked of him. Herodias had told her to ask for the head of John the Baptist, so when Herod told her to ask for what she wanted, she said, "Give me here John Baptist's head in a charger." Then Herod was sorry, but he did not dare break his word, so he sent to the prison and commanded the soldiers to behead John, and his head was brought in a charger, or large dish, and given to the girl, and she took it to her mother. (Matt. XIV, 1 to 12.)

LESSON SEVENTEENTH

THE MIRACLE OF THE FISHES

Once when Jesus was near the Sea of Galilee preaching to the people, great crowds of people came to hear him. There were two boats near the shore, but the fishermen to whom they belonged had gone out of them and were mending their nets on the shore. Jesus stepped into one of the boats, which belonged to Simon Peter, and asked him to push it out from the shore a little way. Then Jesus sat down in the boat and preached to the people who were on the shore.

When Jesus had finished speaking he told Peter, and his brother Andrew, to push the boat out into deep water and let down the net. Peter told Jesus that he and the other fishermen had been fishing all night and had caught nothing. He said he thought he would catch nothing then, but since Jesus had told him to

DRAWING THE NET TO LAND

let down the net he would obey. Then he let the net down and it became so full of fish that Peter and Andrew were not strong enough to draw them into the boat, so they beckoned to the other fishermen to come and help them. They came in their boat and helped to pull in the net and there were so many fish that both boats were filled.

Then Peter knew that Jesus had performed this miracle and he fell at Jesus' feet and worshiped him, saying, "I am a sinful man, O Lord." Peter was astonished at the wonderful power of Jesus and so were the men with him.

Jesus did this miracle because he wanted these fishermen to believe that he was the Son of God. Jesus had chosen these men to be his disciples and to help him.

Jesus asked them to follow him and they all left their boats and followed him. The men who were chosen were Peter, Andrew, James and John. (Luke V, 1 to 11.)

LESSON EIGHTEENTH

THE HEALING OF PETER'S WIFE'S MOTHER

Once when Jesus was in Peter's house with Andrew and James and John, Peter's wife's mother was sick of a fever. They told Jesus about it. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up; immediately the fever left her and she got up and waited on them.

That was a busy Sabbath for Jesus. In the morning he attended church at the Jewish synagogue—he was in the habit of going always to religious services at the regular times. At this service he spoke to the people. There was a man present who had an evil spirit, and Jesus cast out the evil spirit. After the service he went to Peter's house and there healed Peter's wife's mother.

In the evening great crowds of people came to the door of Peter's house. They brought many who were sick, and some who were pos-

sessed of evil spirits, and many people believed in him.

Then Jesus and the disciples went through Galilee preaching the gospel and teaching in the synagogues. Jesus taught the people that God had sent him to tell them to repent of their sins and to believe that he was their Saviour. He told them that if they were truly sorry for their sins God would forgive them and take them to heaven when they died. (Mark I, 29 to 34.)

LESSON NINETEENTH

THE HEALING OF THE LEPER

While Jesus was in Galilee a man who was sick with leprosy came to him. Leprosy is a terrible disease that no doctor can cure. The leper knelt down at Jesus' feet and said, "If thou wilt, thou canst make me clean." Jesus felt sorry for the poor man and touched him and said, "I will; be thou clean." And as soon as Jesus had spoken, the leprosy left the man and he was clean and well.

Jesus told the man not to tell any one who had cured him; but the man was so happy that he could not keep the good news to himself. He told everybody whom he met of the wonderful miracle that Jesus had performed.

Such great crowds followed Jesus that he had to leave the city and go out into the country. (Mark I, 40 to 45.)

LESSON TWENTIETH

JESUS HEALS A MAN OF THE PALSY

After a few days, Jesus went into Capernaum. When the people heard that he was there, great crowds went to the house where he was staying.

The houses in eastern cities were usually only one story high. The roofs were flat, with a railing round them, so that people could walk there safely. The houses were built round a central square or court. This court was usually open, but when it rained, or was very warm, an awning was drawn over it upon the roof.

There was a man in Capernaum who was sick of the palsy and who could not walk. His friends wanted Jesus to heal him, so they carried him on his bed to the house where Jesus was staying. When they reached the house they found that great crowds were

standing round it listening to Jesus preach. They tried to push through the crowd, but could not; so they carried the man to the roof, tore open the awning, and lowered the man on his bed into the court below.

When Jesus saw that they had taken all this trouble for their friend he knew that they believed in him. So he said to the sick man, "Son, thy sins be forgiven thee."

There were some learned men called scribes in the house, and when they heard Jesus say this, they thought, "This man is wicked: Who can forgive sins but God only?" Then Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them: "Why reason ye these things in your hearts? Whether is it easier to say to the sick of the palsy, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and take up thy bed, and walk?" Jesus told them also that he would show them that he was God's Son and that he had power to forgive sins. Then he said unto the sick man, "Arise, and take up thy bed, and go thy way into thine house." And immediately the man arose, took up his bed and went out before

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HEALING THE PARALYTIC

them all. The people in the house were amazed, and many people believed in Jesus. (Mark II, 1 to 12.)

We ought to be very earnest in bringing our friends to Christ. If they are sick, we can bring them to him in prayer. If they are in some trouble, we can tell them about Christ and ask them to go to him for comfort or for help.

LESSON TWENTY-FIRST

JESUS AT BETHESDA

Whenever there was a Jewish feast day or holiday many Jews went up to Jerusalem to worship in the temple. Jesus went up to Jerusalem at such times so that he could preach to the crowds of people who gathered there.

There was a pool of water in Jerusalem named Bethesda. The people of Jerusalem believed that at a certain time an angel came and stirred up the water in the pool, and that the first sick person who bathed in the pool after the angel had come, would be made well.

Once when Jesus was in Jerusalem, he saw a number of people round the pool waiting for the angel to come to stir the waters.

There was a man in the crowd who had been sick for thirty-eight years. Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been helpless all those years. And Jesus said to him, "Wilt thou be made whole?" The sick

man said, "Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool: but while I am coming, another steppeth down before me."

Then Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up thy bed, and walk." And immediately the man became well and took up his bed and walked.

It was the Sabbath day when Jesus healed the sick man, and when the Jews saw the man carrying his bed they rebuked him because he was carrying his bed on the Sabbath day. The man told them that he who had cured him had told him to take up his bed. Then the Jews asked him who had cured him, but the man did not know.

Later in the day, the man who had been cured saw Jesus in the temple and he told the Jews that it was he who had cured him.

Then the Jews persecuted Jesus and tried to kill him because he had cured the man on the Sabbath. But Jesus told them that he did these miracles because he was the Son of God. Then the Jews tried harder than before to kill him because he had said that he was the Son of God. (John V, 1 to 18.)

LESSON TWENTY-SECOND

THE MAN WITH THE WITHERED HAND

The Pharisees hated Jesus and were always watching him so that they could find some fault in him.

On another Sabbath day, Jesus went into the synagogue to preach. A man was there who had a withered hand. The Pharisees asked Jesus, "Is it lawful to heal on the sabbath days?" They asked him this so that they might have some fault against him—some reason for killing him; for the Pharisees were very careful to obey the commandment, "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy."

But Jesus knew their thoughts—he knew that they were trying to find some reason for killing him, so he said to them: "What man shall there be among you, that shall have one sheep, and if it fall into a pit on the sabbath day, will he not lay hold on it, and lift it out?

How much then is a man better than a sheep? Wherefore it is lawful to do well on the sabbath days."

Then Jesus said to the man with the withered hand: "Stretch forth thine hand." And he stretched it forth; and it was restored whole, like as the other.

The Pharisees were filled with madness against Jesus, for they knew that he was right. Then they talked together and planned what they should do to him. (Matthew XII, 10 to 13.)

LESSON TWENTY-THIRD

THE TWELVE APOSTLES

After Jesus had cured the man with the withered hand, he went into a mountain to pray and his disciples followed him. Then Jesus chose twelve of them and called them his apostles.

The twelve men chosen were Simon, who was also called Peter, and his brother Andrew; James and John, Philip and Bartholomew, Matthew and Thomas, James (the son of Alphæus) and Simon, called Zelotes, Judas, the brother of James, and Judas Iscariot.

The word apostle means a messenger or a person who is sent to do something. These men were chosen by Jesus to preach to the people after his death and to help him during his life. Mark III, 13 to 19; Luke VI, 13 to 16.)

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

LESSON TWENTY-FOURTH

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

While Jesus was on the mountain he preached a wonderful sermon to his disciples which is always called The Sermon on the Mount.

The first eight verses of this sermon are called the Beatitudes. They tell us which people are best loved by God and which are the most happy.

The first beatitude is: "Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." The "poor in spirit" are those people who are humble. Jesus himself was never proud, and he always taught people to be humble. In the first beatitude he tells us that "theirs is the kingdom of heaven." This means that the humble will go to heaven and be happy when they die.

The second beatitude is: "Blessed are they

that mourn: for they shall be comforted." Jesus had a very tender heart; he was always sorry for people in trouble. In the second beatitude Jesus has promised that he will comfort and make happy all who are in trouble.

The third beatitude is: "Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth." In this beatitude Jesus tells us that those who are meek or gentle shall inherit the earth. He means that meek people shall become the powerful people of the earth.

The fourth beatitude is: "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled." The people who "hunger and thirst after righteousness" are those who wish with all their hearts to be good. Jesus promises in this beatitude that such people shall be filled with goodness.

The fifth beatitude is: "Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy." Jesus was always ready to forgive those who had done wrong. In this beatitude Jesus promises us that if we are merciful and forgiving to people who wrong us He will be merciful to us when we sin against him.

The sixth beatitude is: "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God." The "pure in heart" are those people whose thoughts are pure and clean. Jesus has promised that people who have clean thoughts shall see God when they die, and shall see him also in this world by faith.

The seventh beatitude is: "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God." Peacemakers are people who will not quarrel themselves, and who try to keep other people from quarreling. Jesus came to preach "peace" to the people and he has promised in this beatitude that the peacemakers shall be called the children of God, because they are like their heavenly Father who always loves peace.

The eighth beatitude is: "Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

The people who are "persecuted for righteousness' sake" are those who are willing to suffer rather than give up their faith. The people who followed Jesus and believed in him were often troubled and persecuted by

those who hated Jesus; but to all who were willing to suffer, Jesus has promised the kingdom of heaven as a reward. (Matt., ch. V.)

We cannot do anything better than try to get all these Beatitudes into our life. We should seek to be humble, and meek—patient in bearing wrong, and merciful and pure in heart, and peacemakers. Then we shall be like Christ.

LESSON TWENTY-FIFTH

THE HOUSE ON THE ROCK

While Jesus was on the mountain he preached a very long sermon to the multitude. It was full of wisdom and advice, and at the close of the sermon Jesus told them that many of those who were listening would go away and forget his teaching and would follow their old sinful ways. Jesus said that when these people died and wanted to go to heaven they would come and beg to be taken to heaven. Jesus said that then he would tell them to depart from him because they had followed their evil ways.

Then Jesus told them a story, or parable, so that they would remember what he had told them. He said that those who heard his sayings and obeyed them were like a wise man who built his house upon a rock. And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the

winds blew and beat upon that house; but it did not fall because it was founded upon a rock.

Jesus said that those who heard his sayings but did not obey them were like a foolish man who built his house upon the sand. And the rain descended and the floods came and the wind blew and beat upon that house; and it fell.

The people who heard this parable never forgot the lesson that Jesus taught them, and many people believed in him. (Matt. VI, 21 to 28.)

LESSON TWENTY-SIXTH

THE PARABLE OF THE RICH MAN

Once when Jesus was preaching to a great multitude, he told them this parable: A certain rich man had a large, fertile farm. One year the crops were so great that the man did not have barns large enough to hold them, so the man decided to pull down the old barns and build larger ones. Then he planned to get all the crops together that he could gather and put them into his big barns and keep them for himself. He planned also to save all the money he could so that he would be very rich when he was an old man. All his thoughts were selfish and greedy ones. But that night the man suddenly died, and where were all his riches then?

After speaking this parable Jesus showed the people how foolish it was to think only of wealth. Such people, Jesus said, became

covetous and selfish. Their wealth could not take them into heaven. When we come before Jesus at our death, nothing but our deeds will count. Jesus will not ask us how much money we have, but he will ask us how much good we have done. (Luke XII, 13 to 21.)

LESSON TWENTY-SEVENTH

THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER

One of the most important parables that Jesus spoke was the parable of the sower. Many of the people who listened to him were farmers and they could easily understand a story about sowing seed.

Before Jesus began to preach, so many people crowded around him to hear him that he went into a ship and sat down and the multitude stood on the shore to listen.

Jesus said: A sower went forth to sow, and when he sowed some seeds fell by the wayside, and the fowls came and devoured them up. Some fell upon stony places where they had not much earth, and they sprung up quickly because they were not planted deeply in the earth. But when the sun was up, they were scorched and because they had no root they withered away. And some fell among

thorns; and the thorns sprang up and choked them. But others fell upon good ground and brought forth much fruit.

After telling the parable Jesus explained it to them. He said that the people who heard him but did not think about his preaching, quickly forgot all that he said; and when such people are tempted they immediately forget all the good teaching. These people, Jesus said, were like the seed that fell by the wayside. The wicked people who tempted them were like the fowls which came and devoured the seed.

Jesus said that some people heard his lessons and understood them. At first these people were happy in following God, but when trouble came, and they were persecuted for righteousness' sake, they did not remain true to Jesus. Such people were like the seed that fell upon stony ground, which died because it had not strong roots.

Jesus said that some people heard his lessons, but their minds were so full of the pleasures and riches of the world that they could not think about following Jesus. Such peo-

ple were like the seed that fell among thorns and was choked. The thorns were the pleasures and the riches of the world.

Jesus said that some people heard his lessons and understood them well and tried to follow them. These people grew better all the time and lived such good lives that people who knew them wanted to be like them. Such people were like the seed that fell upon good ground and brought forth much fruit. The fruit was the help that good people give to those around them. (Mark IV, 1 to 20.)

LESSON TWENTY-EIGHTH

THE PEARL OF GREAT PRICE

One day Jesus spoke a number of parables to the people. A parable is a story which is meant to teach some great lessons. One of the parables Jesus spoke that day was about a treasure which a man found in a field. He went and bought the whole field, and thus got the treasure he had found for his own.

Jesus spoke another parable to the people. He said that once a merchant wanted to buy pearls. He traveled all over the country to find the most beautiful pearls in the world. At last he found a pearl that was the most beautiful he had ever seen; but when he asked the price of it, it was so expensive that he did not have enough money to buy it. However, he wanted the pearl so badly that he went home, sold his house and all his goods, and got enough money to buy the pearl.

Jesus meant that it was a very hard thing to follow him and become his disciple. He meant that we must give up many pleasures, all selfishness and must sometimes be persecuted. He said it was a great price to pay, but the life of a Christian was like the pearl of great price, and that those who sacrificed many pleasures for Christ were happy in this life and in the life to come. (Matt. XIII, 45 to 46.)

LESSON TWENTY-NINTH

THE WHEAT AND THE TARES

Jesus spoke another parable to the multitude. He said that a certain man sowed good seed in his field. But while he slept an enemy came and sowed tares or weeds among the wheat and went away. When the wheat sprung up, the tares also began to grow. Then the man's servants came to him and said, "Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares? He said unto them, An enemy hath done this." Then the servants asked him if he wanted them to pull up the tares. But the man said that he did not. He said that if they pulled up the tares they would pull up the wheat, also. He told them to let the wheat and the tares grow together until the harvest. Then when the wheat was ripe he would say to the reapers, Gather the wheat and put it into my

barn; but gather the tares into bundles and burn them.

The disciples asked Jesus to explain this parable. Jesus said that the wheat field was like the world. The wheat was like the good people in the world who loved God. The tares were like the wicked people. God allows the good people and the wicked people to live together in the world, just as the man allowed the wheat and tares to grow together in the field. But on the day of judgment, God will separate the good people from the wicked people, just as the reapers separated the wheat from the tares. The good people will be taken to heaven to live with God forever; but the wicked people will be cast into a furnace of fire. (Matt. XIII, 24 to 43.)

LESSON THIRTIETH

JESUS CALMS THE STORM

In the evening after Jesus had preached to the multitude, he sent the people away. Then he said to his disciples, "Let us pass over unto the other side." They all got into a ship and other small ships followed them. Jesus lay down in the back of the ship and fell asleep, and while he was asleep a great storm arose. The waves beat into the ship so that it became full of water. The disciples thinking that the ship would sink became very much frightened. They awoke Jesus and said, "Master, carest thou not that we perish?" Then Jesus arose and spoke to the wind and the sea, saying, "Peace, be still." And the wind ceased and the sea became calm. Then Jesus said to the disciples, "Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?"

A. Dietrich

QUIETING THE STORM

He wanted the disciples to be brave and to know that no danger could come to them while he was with them.

The disciples were astonished at the power of Jesus and said, "What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him?" (Mark IV, 35 to 41.)

LESSON THIRTY-FIRST

JESUS CURES A MAN OF EVIL SPIRITS

When Jesus and his disciples reached the other side of the sea they came into the country of the Gadarenes. When they got out of the ship a man met them who was possessed of evil spirits. We would call him, in these days, an insane man. This man lived among the caves near the sea, which had been hollowed out to make tombs. He was very violent and his friends had often bound him with chains, but the insane man was very strong, and was always able to break the chains. He roamed around in the mountains and in the tombs like a wild man, crying and cutting himself with stones.

But when the man saw Jesus afar off he ran to him and worshiped him. He seemed to understand that Jesus could help him. Then Jesus said, "Come out of the man, thou un-

clean spirit." Then the man said to Jesus, "What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of the most high God? I adjure thee by God, that thou torment me not."

The evil spirits that were in the man begged Jesus to let them go into a herd of swine that were feeding nearby. Jesus told them to enter into the swine. Immediately the swine became filled with the evil spirits. They rushed wildly down the mountain and threw themselves into the sea, where they were all drowned.

The men who were tending the swine were amazed. They ran and told all the people near by what had happened. The people came near Jesus but were afraid of him because he had power to cast out evil spirits. They begged him to go away from their country, and Jesus got into the ship again with his disciples.

The man who had been cured of the evil spirits had now become like other men. He begged Jesus to let him go with him, but Jesus told him to go back to his own people and tell

them what great things the Lord had done for him.

Then the man went and began to tell the people in his own city what great things Jesus had done for him. (Mark V, 1 to 20.)

LESSON THIRTY-SECOND

JESUS HEALS A SICK WOMAN

When Jesus went back to the other side, a great crowd followed him. There was in the crowd a woman who had been sick for twelve years. She had suffered all this time and had paid all the money she had to many physicians, who had tried to cure her but could not.

This woman believed that Jesus could cure her, so when she was in the crowd she touched the hem of his garment, for she said, "If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole."

Although many people were crowding round him, Jesus knew that the woman had touched him. He turned round and said, "Who touched my clothes?" Then his disciples said, "There is a great multitude of people here who are crowding; why then do you ask, Who touched me?"

But Jesus turned and looked at the woman. The woman, fearing and trembling, came and knelt before him and told him how she had been sick so long, but that she knew that he could heal her if she but touched his clothes. Then Jesus said, "Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace." (Mark V, 25 to 34.)

Jesus was always kind to the sick and to all who were suffering. If we are sick we may tell him about it and he will understand. He felt this woman's touch—it went to his heart. He will feel our touch when we reach out our hand in faith, and he will send us blessing.

LESSON THIRTY-THIRD

JESUS HEALS THE DAUGHTER OF JAIRUS

When Jesus stopped to heal the sick woman he was on his way to the house of one of the rulers of the synagogue, a man named Jairus. Jarius had come to Jesus and had told him that his little daughter was very ill and dying. He asked Jesus to come and lay his hands on her that she would be made well. Jesus went with him, and on his way great crowds of people followed him. But while they were walking to the house of Jairus, a messenger came saying that the little girl was already dead and that it was too late for Jesus to cure her. But Jesus said to Jairus, "Be not afraid, only believe."

Then Jesus went on until he came to the house of Jairus. He saw a great crowd and many people were weeping because the little girl was dead. Jesus asked them why they

were weeping. He said that the child was not dead, but sleeping.

The people laughed scornfully at him, but Jesus told them all to go out except the father and mother of the child. Then Jesus and three of his disciples and the father and mother of the child went into the room where she was lying.

And Jesus took the child by the hand and said to her, "Damsel, I say unto thee, arise. And straightway the little girl arose, and walked." Then those who saw were astonished. Jesus told them not to tell anyone of the miracle, but to give the child something to eat. (Mark V, 22, 23 and 35 to 43.)

G. Reuter

HEALING THE DAUGHTER OF JAIRUS

LESSON THIRTY-FOURTH

THE DEAF MAN CURED

Once when Jesus was preaching, the people brought to him a man who was deaf and could not talk. They asked Jesus to put his hand upon the man and cure him. Then Jesus took the man away from the crowd and put his fingers into the man's ears. Then Jesus spat and touched the man's tongue. And immediately the man's ears were opened and the string of his tongue was loosed and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus told them to tell no one of the miracle; but the people went away and published the news everywhere. Then everybody said, "He hath done all things well: he maketh both the deaf to hear, and the dumb to speak." (Mark VII, 31 to 37).

LESSON THIRTY-FIFTH

THE APOSTLES SENT OUT

Jesus went about through all the cities and villages, teaching in the synagogues. He preached the gospel of the kingdom of heaven, teaching the people that if they lived pure and unselfish lives here they would be rewarded in heaven. His kind heart was touched by all the sickness and suffering he saw round him, and wherever he went he cured the sick and helped those who were in trouble.

Great multitudes of people followed Jesus. He was grieved at the wickedness and ignorance of the people. He saw that there was a great deal of work to be done and few people to do it. Then Jesus called his apostles to him and told them that he wanted them to go out and preach to the people. He gave them power to do miracles—to heal diseases and to cast out evil spirits.

Jesus sent the twelve apostles in pairs in this order: Simon (sometimes called Peter) and Andrew, his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew; James, the son of Alphæus, and Lebbæus (also called Thaddæus); Simon and Judas Iscariot.

Before they started, Jesus told them that they must not expect to have an easy time in their work. He told them that they would often be persecuted just as he had been, but that God would reward them in heaven.

These men left their business and their homes to teach the gospel to the ignorant and wicked. They knew they would be poor and often in trouble, but they were willing to give up everything for Jesus. (Luke IX, 1 to 6.)

LESSON THIRTY-SIXTH

JESUS FEEDS THE MULTITUDE

After the apostles had been preaching for a little while, they returned to Jesus to tell him what they had done. Great crowds of people followed them begging them to cure the sick.

Then Jesus and his disciples got into a ship to sail to the other side of the sea of Galilee, but the multitude followed them by walking round the sea to the other side.

The disciples knew that many of these poor people had had nothing to eat for three days, so they asked Jesus what they should do to feed them. Jesus asked them how much food they had. They said that they had five small loaves and a few fishes. Then Jesus told them to tell the people to sit down on the grass. The people sat down in groups of fifty. There were five thousand men, besides many women

THE MIRACLE OF THE [illegible]

and children. Jesus took the bread and fish and gave thanks to God. Then he broke the bread, and his disciples passed the bread and fish to the people.

When all the people had eaten as much as they wanted Jesus told his disciples to gather up the pieces that were left so that nothing should be wasted; and the disciples gathered up twelve baskets full.

After Jesus had performed this miracle many people believed that he was the Son of God. (Matt. XIV, 13 to 21.)

LESSON THIRTY-SEVENTH

JESUS WALKS ON THE SEA

After the multitude had been fed, Jesus sent the people away and told his disciples also to leave him; and they got into a ship. Then Jesus went up into a mountain to pray.

While the disciples were in the ship, in the evening, a great storm arose. The ship was in the middle of the sea.

Jesus on the mountain could see his disciples working very hard. They were rowing the ship, because the wind was blowing them away from the shore. Then Jesus walked toward them upon the sea. When his disciples saw him they became very much frightened for they thought it was a spirit; and they cried out in their fear.

Then Jesus said unto them, "Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid."

Peter, who could not believe that it was

Jesus walking on the water said, "Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water." Then Jesus said, "Come."

But when Peter got out of the ship and began to walk on the water, he became afraid because the wind was blowing hard and the waves were rough. Then he began to sink and he cried out, "Lord, save me."

Jesus stretched forth his hand and caught Peter and asked him why he had so little faith. Then Jesus and Peter got into the boat and immediately the wind ceased. (Matt. XIV, 22 to 32.)

LESSON THIRTY-EIGHTH

JESUS FORETELLS HIS DEATH

Once when Jesus was walking with his apostles toward the city of Cæsarea, he asked them what the people said about him. They told him that some people said that he was John the Baptist, and that others said that he was one of the old prophets risen from the dead. Then Jesus said to Peter, "But whom say ye that I am?" Peter answered, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Then Jesus began to tell his apostles all the things that were to happen to him. He told them that he would be crucified, and the third day he would be raised from the dead.

The Jews, who had been waiting for thousands of years for the birth of Jesus, had always believed that he would become the king of the Jews and would make the Jews free. But God had not sent Jesus to be an earthly

king, but to teach the people how to live so that they could live forever in the kingdom of heaven.

Jesus talked a long time to his apostles, preparing them for his death, for Jesus knew that he would soon be betrayed and crucified. (Matt. XVI, 13 to 21.)

LESSON THIRTY-NINTH

THE TRANSFIGURATION

Six days after Jesus talked with his apostles about his death, he took Peter and John and James into a mountain to pray.

And as Jesus prayed his face shone like the sun and his robes became white and glistening. Then there appeared unto them Moses and Elias, who talked with Jesus.

Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias." While he was speaking a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him."

When the disciples heard it they fell upon their faces and were much frightened. Jesus came and touched them saying, "Arise, and

be not afraid." And when they looked up they saw no one except Jesus.

Then Jesus told them that they must tell no one what they had seen and heard, until he should be risen from the dead.

Then Peter and James and John talked among themselves, for they could not then understand what Jesus meant when he said that he should rise from the dead. (Matt. XVII, 1 to 13.)

LESSON FORTIETH

A CHILD WITH AN EVIL SPIRIT

The next day when Jesus and Peter and John and James came down from the mountain many people met them. And a man in the crowd came to Jesus and said that his only child, his son, was possessed of an evil spirit. Then the man told Jesus how the evil spirit made the child tear himself and bruise himself. The man said that he had taken the child to the disciples but they could not cure him. Then Jesus told the man to bring the boy to him. While the child was coming, the evil spirit threw him down and tore his flesh.

Then Jesus spoke to the evil spirit and it departed from the boy, who lay on the ground as if he were dead. Jesus took him by the hand and the boy stood up and was well. All the people were amazed at the mighty power of Jesus.

The disciples asked Jesus why they had not been able to cure the child, and Jesus said it was because they did not have enough faith. He told them that faith came only by prayer and fasting. (Matt. XVII, 14 to 21.)

Jesus is able always to cast out evil spirits. He is able also to cure us of our bad feelings and thoughts. Some boys and girls have bad tempers, and they cannot get clear of them. But if they ask Jesus, he is able to take away the anger and to help them always to keep sweet. Whatever bad thing we have in us, we should take it to Jesus.

LESSON FORTY-FIRST

JESUS TEACHES HUMILITY

Jesus had often spoken to his disciples about his death and about the kingdom of heaven, but they did not fully understand him. They believed that Jesus would take Herod from the throne and become the king of the Jews.

But this was not the work that Jesus had come to do. He had not come to earth to have war but to bring peace to the people. The disciples however, knew that Jesus was powerful enough to become king if he wished to do so, and they were always hoping that he would.

One day, while the disciples were walking to Capernaum, they were talking about the kingdom that Jesus would set up in Jerusalem. And they disputed among themselves as to which would have the highest position in the kingdom. Each of them thought he

should have the highest place. They had not yet learned the beautiful lesson of humility which he wants all his friends to learn.

Jesus knew their thoughts, and he brought a little child to them and told them that unless they put away their pride they could not enter into his kingdom. He said that they must be as humble as the little child and that whoever was humblest on earth would become the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. We should remember this lesson and always be humble, not seeking to be great but only to be good and kind. (Luke IX. 46 to 49.)

LESSON FORTY-SECOND

THE UNJUST SERVANT

Jesus also told his disciples that they must be forgiving. Peter asked him if it was right to forgive a man seven times who sinned against him. Jesus told him that he should forgive him seventy times seven. Jesus meant by this that we should always be willing to forgive, no matter how often we were sinned against.

Jesus wanted his disciples to remember this lesson very well so he told them a parable, or story, to make them remember.

Jesus said that there was once a king who had a servant who owed him ten thousand pieces of money. The servant had no money with which to pay the debt so the king commanded that the man and his wife and children should be sold as slaves. Then the man went to the king and begged that he would give him a longer time and he would surely

pay the debt. The king felt sorry for the man, so he forgave him the debt.

But the same servant went out and found another servant who owed him a few pennies. He laid hands upon him and took him by the throat and said, "Pay me that thou owest."

Then the fellow-servant fell upon his knees and begged him to wait a little longer and he would pay him all.

But the servant was hard-hearted and would not wait, but put his fellow-servant in prison until he should pay the debt.

When the king heard how cruel the servant had been to his fellow-servant he sent for him and said, "O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me: Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee?" Then the king was very angry and he sent the man to be punished until he should pay his debt.

We are all the time offending God but he is always willing to forgive us. Should we not then be willing to forgive each other? (Matt. XVIII, 21 to 35.)

LESSON FORTY-THIRD

THE GOOD SAMARITAN

Often when Jesus was teaching, people in the audience would ask him questions. Some of these questions were asked by the scribes and Pharisees, hoping that they would confuse Jesus or that he would say something unlawful.

One day a lawyer said to Jesus, "Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"

Then Jesus asked him what the Bible told him to do. The lawyer said, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbor as thyself."

Then Jesus said, "Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live."

The lawyer then asked Jesus who his neighbor was.

THE GOOD SAMARITAN

Jesus told him this parable to teach him who his neighbor was: A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell among thieves, who robbed him of all his clothes and wounded him, leaving him by the roadside half dead. By chance there came by a certain priest. When the priest saw the man lying in the road he passed by on the other side of the road.

Afterwards a Levite came along and looked at him, and passed by on the other side.

But a certain Samaritan came to the man. And when he saw him he had compassion on him, and went to him and bound up his wounds, bathing them with oil and wine to make them heal. Then the Samaritan took the Jew to an inn and nursed him.

The next day when the Samaritan left the inn he gave money to the inn-keeper and told him to keep the injured Jew until he was well. He also told the inn-keeper that if he spent more money than he had left with him, he would repay him the next time he came.

The priest and the Levite who passed by the wounded Jew were both his own country-

men. The Samaritan who took care of the wounded man belonged to another country. The Samaritans and Jews were not friendly nations, but the good Samaritan did not stop to ask who the Jew was. He only knew that the man needed help.

Jesus told this parable to teach the lawyer and to teach us that anyone who needs help is our neighbor. When we are in trouble and need help from God he does not ask who we are. He gives help freely and he wants us to help, without question, those who need help. **(Luke X, 25 to 37.)**

LESSON FORTY-FOURTH

THE PRODIGAL SON

Jesus was one day preaching to some publicans. The scribes and Pharisees hated the publicans because they collected the taxes from the Jews for the Roman government. When they saw Jesus preaching to the publicans they talked together against him, saying, "This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them."

Then Jesus told them this parable because he wanted them to see how selfish and cruel they were: He said, A certain man had two sons. The younger son said, "Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me." Then the father divided his money, and gave the younger son his share.

A short time afterwards the younger son took all that he had and journeyed into a far country. There he wasted his money. He

spent it foolishly among wicked men until it was all gone. Then there was a famine in the land. The young man became so poor that he went into the fields and was glad to eat the husks that the swine fed upon. None of the friends on whom he had spent his money were willing to give him anything.

While he was in the fields he began to think of his father's home. He thought how the lowest servant there had more than enough to eat, while he was starving. He felt ashamed of himself because he had been so wicked and wasteful and then he said to himself, "I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants." And he arose and went to his father. But when he was still a great way from his father's house, his father saw him coming and ran to meet him. The father put his arms round his son and kissed him. Then the son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son." But the father

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THE PRODIGAL'S RETURN

said to his servants, "Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet: And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry: For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found."

The servants did all that their master told them.

Now the elder brother, who had been working in the field, came home; and when he came near the house he heard music and dancing. He called a servant and asked him what these things meant.

When the servant told him that his brother had returned, and that his father had prepared a feast, the elder brother felt jealous and angry and would not go in to the feast. His father came out and begged him to go in, but the elder brother said: "I have worked for thee for many years and have always obeyed thee. Yet thou never gavest me a kid that I might make merry with my friends. But when my brother who has wasted all his money with wicked people, returns, thou hast

killed for him the fatted calf and made a feast for him."

But the father said: "Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine. It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad: for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found."

Jesus told this parable to the Pharisees and Sadducees to teach them that all people are God's children and that God's love never changes. He is a loving father to all people, whether good or bad; and if we are sorry for sins and ask God's forgiveness, he is willing always to forgive. (Luke XV, 21 to 32.)

LESSON FORTY-FIFTH

THE RAISING OF LAZARUS

There lived in the town of Bethany, two sisters, Mary and Martha, and their brother Lazarus. Jesus loved them all and often visited them at their home.

Once when Jesus was away from Bethany, Lazarus became very ill. Mary and Martha sent word to Jesus that their brother was ill, but Jesus did not go to him at once.

After two days, Jesus told his disciples that he was going into Judæa to see Lazarus. He said, "Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep." The disciples thought that Jesus meant that Lazarus really was asleep, and they said that if Lazarus was sleeping he must surely be getting better. Then Jesus told them plainly that Lazarus was not asleep, but dead.

When Jesus and his disciples arrived at

Bethany they found that Lazarus had been dead and buried four days. When they reached the house, they found a great many people there trying to comfort Mary and Martha.

As soon as Martha heard that Jesus was coming she went to meet him, but Mary sat still in the house.

Then Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died. But I know, that even now, whatsoever thou wilt ask of God, God will give it thee."

Jesus said to her, "Thy brother shall rise again." Martha thought that Jesus meant that Lazarus would rise from the dead at the judgment day when all the dead shall rise, and she said to Jesus, "I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day."

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die." Jesus meant that if we try to live as he lived, unselfishly and purely, we shall live always in heaven.

Then Jesus asked Martha if she believed this and Martha said, "Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world."

Then Martha went quietly into the house and told Mary that Jesus wished to see her. The Jews who were in the house did not know that Jesus was outside and when they saw Mary go out they thought she was going to Lazarus' tomb to weep, so they followed her.

When Mary reached Jesus, she fell at his feet weeping, and said, "Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died." When Jesus saw Mary and her friends weeping he was troubled and sad, and he wept with them. Then he asked them to show him where Lazarus had been buried. When he reached the tomb, he found that it was a cave and that a stone lay upon it.

Jesus told them to take the stone away, but Martha said that her brother had been dead four days and that it was useless to open the grave. But Jesus answered, "Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?" They opened

the grave and Jesus lifted up his eyes to heaven and prayed; then he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth." And Lazarus, who had been dead four days, came out of the grave.

Then many of the Jews who saw this miracle believed in Jesus. But some went to the Pharisees and told them what he had done. The Pharisees hated Jesus and feared that the people would make him their king and that the Romans would come and destroy their nation. So they plotted together how they should put Jesus to death. (John XI, 1 to 48.)

LESSON FORTY-SIXTH

THE PHARISEE AND THE PUBLICAN

Once when Jesus was preaching, he told the people this parable to teach them not to be proud nor to believe that they were more righteous than others. He said, Two men went up into the temple to pray, the one a Pharisee and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood up where all the people could see him, and prayed: "God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess." You see this Pharisee was proud and thought he was better than other people.

But the publican was ashamed even to lift up his eyes to heaven when he prayed. He felt that he was very wicked and he said, "God be merciful to me a sinner."

Jesus told the people that God loved the

prayer of the publican because he was humble and sorry for his sins, but that God hated the prayer of the Pharisee because he was proud and wanted to be praised by men. He said that those who humble themselves shall be exalted by God, but those who exalt themselves shall be humbled by God. (Luke XVIII, 10 to 14.)

B. Plockhorst

BLESSING LITTLE CHILDREN

LESSON FORTY-SEVENTH

JESUS BLESSES LITTLE CHILDREN

Once when Jesus was preaching, some people brought little children to him so that he might bless them. The disciples tried to send the children away because they thought that Jesus did not have time to bless children. But Jesus rebuked the disciples and told them to let the children come to him. Then he told the people that if they did not become as humble as little children they could not enter the kingdom of heaven. Then he put his hand on the heads of the children and blessed them. (Luke XVIII, 15 to 17.)

Every little child should remember always that Jesus loves him. Some of those brought to him that day were babies. He loves even the youngest children.

LESSON FORTY-EIGHTH

BLIND BARTIMAEUS

Once when Jesus was going out of Jericho, followed by his disciples and a great multitude of people, a blind beggar named Bartimæus sat by the roadside, begging. When he heard that Jesus was passing by, he called out in a loud voice, "Jesus, thou son of David, have mercy on me."

The people tried to keep him still but he called again in a still louder voice, "Thou son of David, have mercy on me."

Bartimæus had heard of Jesus and knew that he could make him see. Jesus had never passed that way before, and the blind man would not lose this one chance of having his eyes opened, so he would not stop calling, but called louder and louder.

Then Jesus stood still and told the people to bring Bartimæus to him. When Bartimæus

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HEALING A BLIND MAN

heard that Jesus wanted him, he threw aside his long robe so that he could run more quickly, and went to Jesus.

Jesus asked what he wanted him to do. The blind man said, "Lord, that I may receive my sight." Then Jesus told him that because he had believed in him, his sight should be restored. And immediately his sight returned and he followed Jesus. (Mark X, 46 to 52.)

LESSON FORTY-NINTH

JESUS ENTERS JERUSALEM

It was a custom of the Jews to go up to Jerusalem to pray in the temple at the time of the feast of the passover, and the city was always crowded with people.

When it was almost time for the feast, many of the Jews wondered whether Jesus would go up to Jerusalem. The chief priests had become more jealous of Jesus than ever since he had raised Lazarus from the dead and they had told the people that if anyone knew where Jesus was, he should tell them.

Six days before the passover Jesus went to Bethany where Lazarus lived. Many Jews went there, not only to see Jesus but also to see Lazarus.

The chief priests were trying to find Jesus and also to kill Lazarus because since Jesus had raised him from the dead more people than ever had believed in Jesus.

E. Plockhorst

ENTERING JERUSALEM

When Jesus was on the way from Bethany to Jerusalem, he came to the Mount of Olives. He sent two of his disciples ahead of him and told them to go into the nearest village and there they would find an ass and her colt. He told them to untie the colt and bring it to him. He also said that if anyone should ask why they were taking the colt, they must say that the Master needed it.

The disciples went and found the colt just as Jesus had told them. They took it to Jesus and he rode on it into Jerusalem. On the road, they met crowds of people, and when they saw Jesus riding on the colt they thought that he had come to make himself king of the Jews. They pulled down branches from the trees and strewed them in the road for Jesus to ride over. They also took off their garments and laid them in the road and sang, "Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord: peace in heaven, and glory in the highest."

But Jesus knew that many of them did not truly love him and that in a few days they would be helping to crucify him. Because

Jesus was the Son of God, he knew all things that were to happen, and when he entered Jerusalem, he looked on the beautiful city and wept, for he knew that because the Jews were wicked and would not believe in him, God would punish them and destroy the city. Jesus' loving heart could feel sorry for even the people who were plotting to crucify him. (Luke XIX, 29 to 41.)

LESSON FIFTIETH

THE PARABLE OF THE HUSBANDMEN

In the evening Jesus returned to Bethany, but the next morning he went again to Jerusalem. On the way Jesus spoke this parable: There was a man who planted a vineyard, and planted a hedge around it. Then he built a cistern or well to hold the wine that should be pressed out of the grapes. He afterwards built a tower for the servants to live in and to protect the vineyard from robbers.

When it was all finished, he rented the vineyard to some men called husbandmen who promised to give him a part of the fruit of the vineyard in payment of their rent.

When the grapes were ripe, the owner of the vineyard sent a servant to the vineyard to receive his share of the fruit. But the husbandmen caught him and beat him and sent him away with no fruit.

Then the owner sent another servant but the wicked husbandmen threw stones at him and injured him in the head and sent him away.

Then the owner sent still another servant, but the husbandmen killed him. And so they treated other servants whom the owner sent.

At last the owner said that he would send his only son, whom he dearly loved, thinking that the husbandmen would surely respect him and treat him well. But when the husbandmen saw the son, they said to each other: "This is the son, who will inherit the vineyard when his father dies. Let us kill him and the vineyard will belong to us."

And they took him and killed him and cast him out of the vineyard.

Then the owner of the vineyard went and killed the husbandmen and gave the vineyard to others.

Jesus spoke this parable against the Jews who had treated him so cruelly and were trying to put him to death. By the owner of the vineyard, Jesus meant God. The vineyard was the beautiful land of Canaan which God had given to the Jews. God gave the Jews

his laws through Moses, just as the owner of the vineyard had told the husbandmen what they must do. The Jews had promised to obey the laws but had broken the promise just as the husbandmen did. God sent his prophets to teach the Jews just as the owner had sent his servants to get the fruits of the vineyard. The Jews had cruelly treated the prophets, just as the husbandmen had treated the servants. Then God sent his only Son, Jesus, whom he dearly loved, to teach the Jews, but they treated him just as cruelly as the husbandmen had treated the owner's son.

The Jews understood the parable very well, and they knew that Jesus was speaking against them. They did not feel sorry, however, but became more angry than ever against Jesus and tried to find some way of killing him. (Mark, ch. XII.)

LESSON FIFTY-FIRST

THE PARABLE OF THE TALENTS

Jesus spoke a parable to the people, saying: A man who had several servants decided to take a journey to another country. Before he went he called his servants to him and gave to each some money that he might earn more money with it while the master was away.

He gave to one servant five talents (or pieces of money), to another, he gave two talents, and to another, he gave one talent. Then the master went away and stayed for some time. While he was gone the servant who had five talents bought and sold goods with them until he had earned five talents more, making in all ten talents. The servant who had two talents did the same, and earned two more talents for his master. But the servant who had one talent was lazy and did

not care to work, so he buried his one talent in the ground and hid it there until the master returned.

When the master came back, he called his servants to him and asked them what they had done with the money he had given them.

The servant who had received five talents, told the master that he had earned five more talents with it; and he then gave the ten talents to him. The master felt proud of him, and said, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things."

Then the servant who had been given two talents said that he had earned two more with them; and he gave the four talents to the master. The master was pleased with him, and said, "Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord."

Then the lazy servant, who had received one talent, tried to make excuses to the master and told him he had felt afraid that if he

traded with the one talent he would lose it, so he had buried it. He returned to the master the one talent which had been given him. The master was very angry, and said, "Thou wicked and slothful servant." Then he took the talent and gave it to the one who had ten.

By this parable Jesus meant to teach us that we must improve the talents with which we are born. We are all born with the ability or talent to do something; and if we use the talents which God has given us they will increase. The return of the master in the parable meant the Day of Judgment, when we must all appear before our Master, God, and confess whether we have used our talents well or not. To those who have, God will say, "Well done, good and faithful servant . . . enter thou into the joy of thy lord." But to the idle, God will say, "Thou wicked and slothful," and they shall be cast into outer darkness. (Matt. XXV, 14 to 30.)

LESSON FIFTY-SECOND

THE DAY OF JUDGMENT

Then Jesus told his disciples how, at the end of the world, the Son of God and all his angels would come in glory and would sit on the throne of his glory. He said that all the nations of the earth would be gathered before him; that he would separate the good from the wicked; and that he would set the good people on his right hand and the wicked on his left.

Then the King shall say to those on his right hand, "Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me."

Then the good people shall say in surprise, "Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?"

Then the King shall answer them, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

Then God shall say to those on the left hand, "Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not."

Then the wicked shall say, "Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee?"

Then God shall say unto them, "Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me."

And the wicked shall go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous shall go into eternal life in heaven.

After this, Jesus told his disciples that in two days more would be the feast of the passover. He knew that on that day some one was going to betray him to the chief priests who wanted to have him crucified.

The chief priests and scribes were anxious to take Jesus prisoner. They met together at the house of Caiaphas, the high priest, to plan how they should take him. They decided not to take him prisoner on the feast day, for they knew that there would be many friends of Jesus in Jerusalem, and the priests were afraid that they would make a riot. (Matt. XXV, 32 to 46.)

LESSON FIFTY-THIRD

THE ANOINTING OF JESUS' FEET

Jesus went back to Bethany to the house of Lazarus and Mary and Martha. They made a supper for Jesus and his disciples, and Lazarus sat at the table with them, while Martha served them.

In those days the Jews did not sit up in chairs at the table as we do, but lay down on couches round the table.

While Jesus and his disciples were at supper, Mary brought a box of ointment of spikenard. It was a very costly ointment, with a delicious fragrance. Mary broke the box, poured the ointment on Jesus' feet, and wiped his feet with her hair. She did this to show how she honored Jesus by giving to him the best she had.

Then one of the disciples, Judas Iscariot, said, "Why was not this ointment sold for

three hundred pence, and given to the poor?"

Judas did not really care for the poor, for he was wicked, and a thief, and wanted the money for himself.

But Jesus knew his thoughts and said: "Let her alone: against the day of my burying hath she kept this. For the poor always ye have with you; but me ye have not always." Jesus knew that he would soon be crucified, and that Judas was the one who would betray him.

Then Judas Iscariot went to the chief priests and asked what they would give him if he would show them where Jesus was. They told him that they would give him thirty pieces of silver. Then Judas tried to find Jesus alone so that the priests could take him prisoner without trouble. (John XII, 1 to 8.)

LESSON FIFTY-FOURTH

WASHING HIS DISCIPLES' FEET

The day of the feast of the passover, each man among the Jews took a lamb to the temple and killed it as a sacrifice, just as the Jews had done ever since the first passover in Egypt when God's angel had passed over the houses of the Hebrews, saving the Hebrew children, and slaying the Egyptian children.

The priest in the temple burned the fat of the lambs on the altar, but the meat was taken home by the men and roasted and eaten by the family in the evening.

Jesus and his disciples had planned to eat their passover together. They asked him where they should prepare the feast. Jesus told Peter and John to go into the city and that there they would meet a man carrying a pitcher of water. He told them to follow the man into the house he entered and tell him to

WASHING THE DISCIPLES' FEET

make ready a room, for the Master was coming to eat the passover there.

Peter and John found the man, as Jesus had said; and they prepared the feast. When Jesus and his disciples were at the table, he arose and took off his outer robe and tied a towel around his waist. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel.

When Jesus came to Peter, Peter would not allow him to wash his feet. He said that Jesus must not wash his feet like a servant because he was his Master. But Jesus said, "If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me." Then Peter said, "Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head." Jesus said, "He that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit."

Jesus washed the feet of his disciples to teach them to be humble. He knew that he would soon be crucified and he wanted his disciples to remember that he had not been too

proud to serve them although he was the Son of God. (Luke XXII, 1 to 13; John XIII, 1 to 10.)

This is a lesson we need to learn, too. We should never be so proud that we will not do little things, lowly things, for others. Those we live with, or play with, often need kindnesses we can show them, and we should be glad to serve them always in any way we can. If Jesus washed his disciples' feet, there is nothing too humble for us to do for another.

LESSON FIFTY-FIFTH

THE LORD'S SUPPER

While Jesus and his disciples were eating the passover Jesus said, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me."

Then the disciples looked at one another wondering of whom he spoke. John, the beloved disciple, was leaning his head on Jesus' breast; Peter motioned to him to ask Jesus whom he meant should betray him. Then John said to Jesus, "Lord, who is it?" Jesus answered, "He it is, to whom I shall give a sop, when I have dipped it." When he had dipped the sop (a piece of bread), he gave it to Judas Iscariot.

Then Jesus said to Judas, "That thou doest, do quickly." The disciples did not know what Jesus meant. Judas had charge of the money of the disciples, and some of them thought that Jesus meant that Judas

was to go out and buy what they needed; or that he should give something to the poor. But Judas knew what Jesus meant, and he went out immediately after receiving the bread.

As they were at supper, Jesus took bread and broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat, for this is my body which is broken for you." Jesus meant that the bread represented his body which was soon to be broken on the cross.

Then he poured wine, and after he had thanked God, he gave it to each of them saying, "This is my blood which is shed for the forgiveness of sins." Jesus meant that the wine represented his blood which was to be spilt when he was crucified for the salvation of the world.

Then Jesus told them that they should meet together after his death and eat the bread and drink the wine in remembrance of him.

While they were at supper Jesus spoke many beautiful words of comfort and advice to his apostles, for he knew that he would soon leave them and that they would grieve

for him. He told them not to be troubled when he was gone, for he was going to prepare a place in heaven for them, and that he would come again to them. He said that God would send his Holy Spirit into their hearts to comfort them and to teach them all that they could not then understand.

Then Jesus prayed for his disciples, and for all those who believed what his disciples preached. (John XIII, 21 to 30, and ch. XIV.)

LESSON FIFTY-SIXTH

CHRIST IN GETHSEMANE

When Jesus and his disciples left the house where they had eaten the feast of the passover, they went to the Mount of Olives. They came to a garden called Gethsemane. It was a favorite place with Jesus, and he and his disciples had often rested there.

Then Jesus said to his followers, "Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder." While Jesus was praying, he thought of all the suffering through which he was going to pass. He thought also of how he had cured the sick and those who were in trouble, but now when this great suffering was coming upon him, even his apostles would forsake him and he would not have one friend in the world to comfort him.

He prayed to his Father in heaven to let the trouble pass from him. Then he remem-

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IN GETHSEMANE

bered how his death would bring salvation to the whole world, and so he prayed that God would send whatever suffering was best.

Then Jesus went toward his disciples and found that they were sleeping. He said to Peter, "What, could ye not watch with me one hour?" Then he told his disciples to watch and pray so that they would not be led into temptation; but when he had turned away they again fell asleep. And so Jesus was left all alone with his sorrowful thoughts.

After Jesus had prayed the third time, he returned and found the disciples sleeping. He said to them tenderly, "Sleep on now, and take your rest." Then afterwards he awoke them and said, "Rise, let us be going: behold, he is at hand that doth betray me."

While Jesus was speaking, Judas Iscariot was on his way to the garden to betray Christ. Judas knew that Jesus often went to Gethsemane to rest and that only a few disciples would be with him; so he thought it would be the best time to capture Jesus.

There were a number of Jews with Judas. When they came near Jesus, Judas said,

"Whomsoever I shall kiss, that same is he: hold him fast."

When Judas came to Jesus, he said, "Hail, master: and kissed him." When the Jews who were with Judas saw this, they took hold of Jesus.

One of the disciples drew his sword and struck one of the Jews, cutting off his right ear. But Jesus told them not to fight. He said that he could easily ask God to send a legion of angels to destroy his enemies, but would not because it was time for him to die, as had been prophesied, that by his death the people might be saved from sin. Then Jesus touched the Jew's ear and healed it.

The Jews led him to Caiaphas, the high priest. Jesus' disciples became frightened when they saw that he was a prisoner and they all fled, except Peter. Peter followed the crowd to the high priest's house to see what they would do to Jesus. (Matt. XXVI, 36 to 58.)

After Harrach

PETER'S DENIAL

LESSON FIFTY-SEVENTH

PETER DENIES CHRIST

While they were in the high priest's house, a young woman came to Peter and said, "Thou also wast with Jesus of Galilee." Peter became afraid that they would make him a prisoner also, so he declared that he had not been with Jesus. Then he went out on the porch.

While he was on the porch another maid saw him and said, "This fellow was also with Jesus of Nazareth." And again Peter denied Christ, saying, "I do not know the man."

After awhile a man who had been with Judas in Gethsemane looked at Peter and said, "Surely thou also art one of them; for thy speech bewrayeth thee." But Peter again denied knowing Christ, and after he had spoken he heard the cock crow.

When Jesus and his disciples had been eat-

ing the feast of the passover together a few hours before, Peter had told Jesus that he was willing to give his life for him; and Jesus had said, "This night, before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice."

Peter could not understand this when Jesus said it. He thought that nothing could make him deny Christ, but when Jesus was captured Peter forgot his vow of faithfulness to Christ. He thought only that the Jews would make him a prisoner if he said that he was a disciple of Christ. When Peter heard the cock crow he remembered what Jesus had told him at the feast. He knew that he had been false to his best friend and he went out of the high priest's house weeping bitterly. (Matt. XXVI, 69 to 75.)

LESSON FIFTY-EIGHTH

CHRIST BEFORE CAIAPHAS

When Jesus was taken to Caiaphas, the high priest, they called a meeting of all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes. These men formed a court and they were allowed by law to try any Jew, who disobeyed the laws of Moses.

The Jews at this time were governed by the Romans. The court of the chief priests and scribes and elders was not allowed to put any prisoners to death. If they found a person guilty and wanted to punish him by putting him to death they had to take the prisoner before the Roman governor and get the governor's permission to kill him.

When Jesus came before the chief priests and the elders, they called many witnesses to testify against him, but the witnesses did not agree, because they were false witnesses.

Then the high priest arose and said to Jesus, "Art thou the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?" And Jesus said, "I am: and ye shall see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven." Jesus meant that in the Day of Judgment, Caipahas would see him sitting beside God.

Then Caiaphas said to the court, "Ye have heard the blasphemy: what think ye?"

Then all the elders and the scribes and the chief priests said that he ought to be put to death. And some of the people began to spit upon Jesus and they blindfolded him and struck him with the palms of their hands.

But Jesus bore all these insults patiently. (Mark XIV, 53 to 65.)

LESSON FIFTY-NINTH

CHRIST BEFORE PILATE

In the morning the chief priests held a meeting and they decided to take Jesus before Pilate, who was the Roman governor. You know they could not put Jesus to death until Pilate gave his permission, because the Jews were the servants of the Romans at that time.

They bound Jesus and took him to Pilate. They told Pilate that Jesus had been teaching the Jews to rebel against the Roman law, but they could not prove what they said. Then they said that Jesus had told the Jews that he was a king. Pilate said to Jesus, "Art thou the King of the Jews?" Jesus said to him, "My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews." Then Pilate went out and said to the Jews, "I find no fault in this man."

But the Jews said that Christ must be put to death. Pilate was afraid that the Jews would ask the Roman emperor to send another governor in his place if he did not please them; but still he was not willing to have Jesus put to death because he was innocent.

Then Pilate found out that Jesus' home was in Galilee. Herod was the governor of Galilee so Pilate thought that he would get out of the trouble by sending Jesus to Herod, who was then in Jerusalem.

So they took Jesus to Herod. Herod had always wanted to see Jesus for he had often heard of his miracles. When Jesus came before him, Herod asked him many questions, but Jesus answered nothing. Herod was afraid to have Jesus put to death; but he and his soldiers mocked Jesus and put a purple robe on him because Jesus had said that he was a king. Then they sent him back to Pilate.

It was a custom of the Roman governor to release one prisoner every year in honor of the feast of the passover. There was in the prison at this time a wicked man named Bar-

abbas. He was a murderer and had been sentenced to death. Pilate thought that he would give the people the choice of releasing either Jesus or Barabbas. He thought they would surely choose Jesus rather than the wicked Barabbas. But when he asked them, they chose Barabbas.

Pilate did not know what to do. He wanted to please the Jews, but he felt that Jesus was innocent and that it would be wicked to crucify him. So he determined to scourge Jesus to please the Jews, and then he intended to set him free. So he had Jesus scourged on the back with ropes, and then sent him back to the Jews.

But the Jews were not satisfied and cried, "Crucify him, crucify him." Then Pilate felt that he could no longer refuse them so he sentenced Christ to be crucified. (John XVIII, 33 to 37; Mark, ch. XV; Luke XXIII, 8 to 11.)

LESSON SIXTIETH

THE CRUCIFIXION

After Pilate had given permission to crucify Jesus, they led Jesus away to a place called Golgotha. On the way to Golgotha they made Jesus carry the cross on which he was to be crucified. They also made a man named Simon help Jesus to carry it.

There were two other men who were crucified on the same day. The other men were thieves. So they set up the three crosses, Jesus' cross in the middle and a thief on each side. Over Jesus' cross Pilate wrote these words, "JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS." He wrote the words in Hebrew, in Greek and in Latin, so that all people might read and understand it. The chief priests were not pleased with this and wanted Pilate to write, "He said, I am King of the Jews," but Pilate would not change it.

Then they nailed Jesus to the cross. While they were crucifying him, Jesus prayed, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." Jesus meant that the soldiers did not know that they were crucifying the Son of God.

People who were crucified did not die at once, but lingered many hours in great agony. The soldiers always gave the person on the cross a drink of vinegar and gall so that he would become unconscious and not feel his sufferings. They offered Jesus this drink, but he would not take it because he wanted to suffer all the agony for our sakes.

While Jesus was on the cross, four soldiers below were deciding who should have his garments. They divided them into four parts, giving one part to each soldier. They could not decide who should take the coat which was a long garment without a seam. They decided not to tear it in four parts but to cast lots for it.

While Jesus was on the cross, Mary, his mother, stood beside it. Jesus saw her and said to John, his beloved disciple, who was

also there, "Behold thy mother!" and to Mary, he said, "Woman, behold thy son!" Jesus meant that after his death John must take care of Mary as though she were his own mother and that Mary must love John as though he were her own son. After Jesus' death, John took Mary into his own home to live.

While Jesus was on the cross, the chief priests and scribes mocked him, saying, "He saved others; himself he cannot save." And people passing by called to him, "If thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross." Jesus bore all this patiently and answered never a word.

One of the thieves also mocked him, saying, "If thou be Christ, save thyself and us." But the other thief rebuked him saying that they were being punished for the sins that they had committed; but Jesus had done no wrong. This thief felt that Jesus was really God's Son and he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom." He meant that he wanted Jesus to be merciful to him, although he was a sinner,

after Jesus had gone to heaven. Jesus said to him, "Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise."

At twelve o'clock, when the sun should have been shining brightest, darkness came upon the whole land. This lasted until about three o'clock. At that time Jesus seemed to reach his most terrible suffering and he cried out, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" It seemed that for a little while, Jesus, deserted by his friends and disciples, was also forsaken by God. God had not forsaken him, but this feeling came to Jesus so that he might suffer even this terrible loneliness for our sakes.

One of the men when he heard Jesus cry out ran and dipped a sponge in vinegar and put it upon a long reed and put it to Jesus' lips. After this Jesus cried out, "It is finished," and his head fell upon his breast and he died.

At that moment the veil in the temple was torn into two pieces from the top to the bottom, and the earth shook and great rocks were broken. Then the graves opened and many

good people who had long been dead came out of the graves. These spirits went to Jerusalem and were seen by many people there.

When the Roman soldiers who were watching Jesus, saw these wonderful things they said, "Truly this was the Son of God." (Luke XXIII, 34 to 43; Matt. XXVII, 29 to 54; Jno. XIX, 17 to 30.)

LESSON SIXTY-FIRST

THE BURIAL OF JESUS

Jesus was crucified on Friday. The next day was the Jewish Sabbath and the Jews did not want the bodies of Jesus and the thieves hanging on the cross on that day. So they went to Pilate and asked him to have the soldiers break the legs of those crucified to make sure that they were dead, and then to take down the crosses. The soldiers, therefore, broke the legs of the thieves, but when they came to Jesus they found that he was dead, so they did not break his legs. But one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear and there came out blood and water.

There was a rich man named Joseph of Arimathæa, who had been secretly a disciple of Jesus. He had never openly followed Christ because he was afraid of the Jews, but when Jesus was dead he went to Pilate and

asked that he might bury the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission to do so and Joseph took away the body.

Nicodemus, another man who had been afraid to confess Jesus during his life, brought myrrh and aloes with which to embalm the body of Jesus.

Joseph took the body from the cross and wrapped it in linen cloth with the spices as the Jews did in those days. Near the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden there was a tomb cut out of the solid rock. Nobody had ever been buried in this tomb so Joseph laid the body of Jesus in it and rolled a great stone across the opening.

Mary Magdalene and Mary, the mother of the apostle James, followed them to the tomb and saw the body of Jesus laid there. Then they all went away leaving the body of Jesus there. (John XIX, 31 to 42.)

LESSON SIXTY-SECOND

THE RESURRECTION

After Jesus was buried the chief priests and Pharisees went to Pilate and said: "Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again. Command therefore that the sepulchre be made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night, and steal him away, and say unto the people, He is risen from the dead."

So Pilate sent soldiers to watch, and the Pharisees made sure by sealing the great stone at the mouth of the tomb.

But in the night there was a great earthquake and the angel of the Lord came down from heaven and rolled back the stone from the door and sat upon it. The face of the angel was like a bright light and his robes

were as white as snow. When the Roman soldiers saw him they trembled and fell down like dead men.

Early in the morning of the third day, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James came to the sepulchre bringing spices. When they saw the angel they were frightened, but the angel said: "Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him."

As they were going to tell the disciples Jesus met them and spoke to them. The two women fell at Jesus' feet and worshiped him. Jesus told them not to be afraid but to go and tell his disciples to go into Galilee, and that he would meet them there. The women went and told these things to the apostles and to the disciples who were with them.

When Peter and John heard what the women said, they ran to the sepulchre. John

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THE RESURRECTION

ran faster than Peter and reached the sepulchre first. He looked into the tomb but did not dare go into it. He saw the linen cloths which had been wrapped about Jesus' body lying in the sepulchre.

When Peter reached the sepulchre he went into it and saw the linen cloths lying in one place, and the napkin, which had been wrapped around Jesus' head, was lying in a place by itself. Then John went in also and he saw and believed, for until it had really happened the disciples had not fully comprehended that Christ could rise from the dead as he had told them he would.

The same day, two of Jesus' disciples were walking to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. As they walked they talked together of all the things they had heard about Jesus. And while they were talking, Jesus himself came near, but they did not recognize him.

Jesus said unto them, "What manner of communications are these that ye have one to another, as ye walk, and are sad?"

Then one of the men named Cleophas said,

"Art thou only a stranger in Jerusalem, and hast not known the things which are come to pass?" Jesus said, "What things?"

They said: "Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet . . . And how the chief priests and our rulers delivered him to be condemned to death, and have crucified him. But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, today is the third day since these things were done." They also told the stranger about the angel telling the women at the sepulchre that Jesus was alive.

Then Jesus (who was still unknown to them) told them that they had not understood what the prophets had promised about Christ, how he must die and rise again from the dead for the salvation of men. And Jesus walked with them to Emmaus, teaching them all the prophecies about Christ and how they had been fulfilled.

When they reached the house to which they were going, Jesus was about to go on, but the men begged that he would go into the house

with them, for they were much interested in his conversation.

Jesus went with them into the house, and when they sat down to eat, Jesus took bread and blessed it and broke it, and gave it to them. Immediately they recognized him, but while they were looking at him he vanished out of their sight.

Then the two men returned immediately to Jerusalem to tell the disciples. They found the eleven disciples gathered together but while they were telling them all that had happened Jesus himself appeared, and said, "Peace be unto you." The disciples became terrified, supposing they had seen a spirit.

Then Jesus said to them: "Why are ye troubled? . . . Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have." Then he showed them his hands and feet where the nails had pierced them.

Afterwards Jesus told them how they were to go and preach the gospel to all nations.

After forty days, Jesus appeared again to

his disciples at Jerusalem. He told them that they must wait until the Holy Spirit should be sent to them and that then they must go out and teach the gospel. Then Jesus led them out as far as Bethany and he lifted up his hands and blessed them. And while he was blessing them he was parted from them and carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem filled with great joy. (Matt. XXVII, 62 to 66; XXXVIII, 1 to 10; Luke XXIV, 1 to 53.)

LESSON SIXTY-THIRD

ANOTHER APOSTLE CHOSEN

After Jesus had ascended into heaven the apostles gathered together in Jerusalem. Other disciples of Jesus also were with them, there being in all about one hundred and twenty persons present. These seem to have been all the people in Jerusalem who had become disciples of Christ. He had not many friends there. Most of his followers lived in Galilee.

Then Peter stood up in the midst of them and told them it was time to choose another apostle in place of Judas. After Judas had betrayed Christ he was filled with remorse and went and hanged himself. The thirty pieces of silver which he had received were spent for a field in which to bury strangers and poor people. Judas might have been honored in all time as one of the apostles of

Jesus, but he threw his life away, with all its honor and usefulness, getting in exchange only a handful of money which also he flung away in remorse, when he saw what a terrible thing he had done.

There were two men among the disciples who had followed Jesus and his disciples through all the time of Jesus' ministry. These men were Joseph, called Barsabas, and Matthias.

The apostles prayed that God would show them which of the two men should be chosen. After praying, they cast lots and the lot fell upon Matthias, and he was numbered with the apostles. (Acts, ch. I.)

LESSON SIXTY-FOURTH

THE PENTECOSTAL FIRE

At the time of the feast of the Harvest or Pentecost the apostles were all together in one place. And suddenly they heard a sound as of a fierce wind sweeping through the room where they were sitting. Then there was also something like fire which came down from heaven and divided into little flames, one of which rested on the head of each disciple. Suddenly they all began to speak in other tongues.

Now there were in Jerusalem for the feast of Pentecost, Jews from all the different provinces. These spoke different languages, each the language of the country from which he came.

When the multitude heard that the apostles were speaking in different languages, they all came together and each man heard a disciple

speaking in his own language. The people were amazed and said to each other, "What meaneth this?" Some men mocked and said, "These men are full of new wine," meaning that they were intoxicated.

But Peter stood up with the disciples and spoke to all the people saying, "These are not drunken, as ye suppose," and he told how they had received the Spirit of God, bidding them to go forth and teach all people, in all languages, as it was prophesied long ago. Then Peter preached a wonderful sermon to the people. He told them how Jesus had been sent to them, how he had lived among them and had shown them many wonderful miracles. He told them also how cruelly they had treated Jesus during his life and how they had crucified him. Then he told them how David had foretold the resurrection of Jesus and that these people had all witnessed how God had raised Jesus from the dead. He also explained how Jesus, who had ascended, was then sitting on the right hand of God in heaven and that the fire, which had that day descended upon the apostles, had been sent by

him to enable them to preach the gospel to all nations.

Peter spoke so wonderfully and so eloquently, that many of the multitude were convicted. They felt ashamed that they had so cruelly treated Jesus, and they asked Peter what they should do to be saved.

Peter told them to repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus and they should be saved. He told them that God's promise was to them and their children and their children's children, and to as many as would believe in Jesus.

Great crowds came to the apostles that day repenting of their sins and were baptized. About three thousand people were added that day to the disciples of Jesus. (Acts, ch. II.)

LESSON SIXTY-FIFTH

PETER HEALS THE LAME MAN

At the hour of prayer, Peter and John went up to the temple to pray. There was a lame man sitting at one of the gates of the temple, called the Beautiful Gate. This poor man had been lame from his birth and had never been able to walk. Since he could not work, his friends carried him every morning to the Beautiful Gate to beg of the people who passed.

When Peter and John were going by him, he begged alms of them. Peter stopped and said, "Look on us." The man obeyed, thinking that they were going to give him some money. Then Peter said, "Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk." Then he took the man by the hand and immediately his feet and ankle-

bones, which had never before been strong enough to support him, became strong and he leaped and walked, and entered with them into the temple, praising God.

When all the people saw him they knew that he was the lame beggar who had sat at the Beautiful Gate and they wondered at the power of Peter.

Then Peter asked why they wondered, and said that he had not performed the miracle through his own power, but by the power of the same Jesus whom they delivered up to Pilate, and whom they denied when Pilate was determined to let him go. It was by the power of this same Jesus, he said, whom God raised from the dead, that this lame man walked. (Acts, ch. III.)

LESSON SIXTY-SIXTH

PETER BEFORE THE COUNCIL

While Peter was talking to the people the priests and Sadducees came upon them. The Sadducees did not believe in the Resurrection, and when they heard Peter speaking of Jesus being raised from the dead, they put him and John into prison. But in spite of this, the people who had heard Peter preach, believed in Jesus and repented, and about five thousand people were added to the body of Jesus' disciples.

The next morning Peter and John were brought before the high priest and the members of the council. Then they asked Peter by what power he had healed the lame man. Peter said, "Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by

him doth this man stand here before you whole. . . . For there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

When the high priest and the Sadducees saw that Peter and John were so fearless and bold, they marveled. Then they saw the man who had been healed standing with them, and they could say nothing more.

They told Peter and John to go outside while they talked together. Then they decided to tell Peter and John that they would be released if they promised not to preach in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John refused to make such a promise, saying that they must tell the people what they had seen and heard.

The Sadducees were afraid to punish them further, for they feared the people who had seen the miracle; so they released the two apostles. (Acts, ch. IV.)

LESSON SIXTY-SEVENTH

ANANIAS AND SAPPHIRA

The disciples of Jesus had agreed that they would share their possessions with those who were in need. Now there was a man named Ananias, who, with his wife Sapphira, professed to be disciples of Jesus. They had a piece of land which they sold. They were selfish and dishonest and decided that they would not give up all the money they had received. So Ananias went to Peter and said that he had sold his lot, but he lied about the price which he had received for it.

Peter was told by the Holy Spirit that Ananias was lying and he asked him why he had lied to the Holy Ghost.

When Ananias heard these words he fell down dead, and some young men who were standing near carried his body away and buried it.

Sapphira, who had not heard of her husband's death, came to Peter about three hours later. Peter asked her how much they had received for the land. She told the same lie that her husband had told. Then Peter said, "How is that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband are at the door, and shall carry thee out." Then Sapphira fell dead, and the young men came in and carried her body away. (Acts V, 1-11.)

LESSON SIXTY-EIGHTH

THE APOSTLES RELEASED FROM PRISON

Peter and the other apostles continued to preach and to perform miracles, although they had been told by the Sadducees not to do so. People came from all parts of the country round Jerusalem bringing their sick with them, that Peter might heal them. The high priest and the Sadducees became so angry that they ordered the apostles put into prison. But while they were in prison, the angel of the Lord came by night and opened the prison doors and took them out of the prison, saying, "Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people." The apostles obeyed, going into the temple early in the morning to teach.

The high priest, not knowing that the apostles had escaped from prison, called all the members of the council together and sent to

the prison to have the apostles sent to him. The messenger returned, saying that he had found the prison closed safely and the guards keeping watch, but the prisoners had escaped. The high priest and the council were amazed, but while they were wondering how it had happened another messenger came and told them that the apostles were in the temple preaching.

The captain of the temple and his officers went to the temple and brought the apostles before the high priest. The high priest asked them why they had disobeyed his command not to preach in Jerusalem. Peter said, "We ought to obey God rather than men." He fearlessly told them that they had crucified Jesus, but now he was exalted by his Father, to be a Prince and a Saviour, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.

The high priest and the council became very angry and they consulted together how they should slay the apostles.

There was a learned man in the council named Gamaliel. He said that there had been other men who had pretended to be divine, but

that those men had all perished and been forgotten. He said that if the apostles were not true, they too would perish. But if they had really been chosen by God to preach it would be useless to slay them, for nobody could fight successfully against God. He advised them, therefore, not to do anything against the apostles.

The council listened to Gamaliel's advice and released the apostles, but before doing so they beat them to punish them.

The apostles, however, did not give up preaching, nor were they discouraged. They rejoiced that Jesus had thought them worthy to suffer shame for his name. (Acts V, 12-42.)

LESSON SIXTY-NINTH

THE CONVERSION OF SAUL

The Sadducees continued to persecute the apostles, but in spite of their persecutions thousands of people listened to the preaching of the apostles, repented of their sins, and became disciples of Jesus. Among the Jews who persecuted the apostles, there was a man named Saul. He hated the disciples and did all in his power to break up the church that was being formed by the apostles. He went from house to house trying to find Christians, so that they might be put into prison. He felt such enmity toward the Christians that he went to the high priest to get permission to go to Damascus to get some Christian prisoners there. The high priest gave him permission to go, and Saul started on his journey, his heart filled with bitterness against all who believed in Jesus.

But while he and some of his friends were walking along the road to Damascus, suddenly a bright light from heaven shone around him. Saul fell to the earth and as he fell he heard a voice from heaven saying, "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?"

And Saul said, "Who art thou, Lord?" And the Lord said, "I am Jesus whom thou persecutest." Saul, trembling and astonished said, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" The Lord said unto him, "Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do."

The men who were with Saul were speechless. They heard the voice from heaven but saw nothing.

When Saul arose, he could not see. His friends led him to Damascus and he was there three days without sight, nor did he eat nor drink during that time.

There was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord appeared to him in a vision telling him that in a certain house he would find Saul, blind; and that he must touch him to restore his sight.

Ananias did not want to go at first for he knew that Saul had persecuted the disciples. But the Lord said that he had chosen Saul to preach before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel.

Then Ananias went to the house and found Saul, and, putting his hands on him, said, "Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost." And immediately Saul's sight was restored and he was baptized.

And so, in this wonderful way, Saul, whose name was now changed to Paul, became a disciple of Jesus and afterwards the greatest preacher in the Church of Christ. He went from place to place preaching and teaching. He formed churches or congregations of Jesus' disciples in all the places that he visited. After he left a place he did not forget the people there who were trying to follow Jesus in spite of persecution. He wrote beautiful letters, full of advice and wisdom and encouragement. These letters or epistles of Paul

are found in the New Testament and they teach us to-day, just as they taught those Christians in the early church, what we ought to do and what we ought to believe if we are to be followers of Jesus.

There is no character in the Bible so interesting as Paul. At first the bitterest enemy of Jesus' disciples, he became, by the power of Jesus, the most fearless of all the followers of the Master. He boldly preached to kings and he suffered persecution, imprisonment and death gladly for Jesus' sake.

The history of the Christian Church began, as you have learned, with the birth of a little child in a stable in Bethlehem. By the life and teaching and death of Jesus, the Church took root, and through the preaching of the apostles it grew and spread its branches all over the world. And wherever it has entered it has brought light and love and hope to the people who formerly sat in darkness.

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